

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06854 301545Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
OMB-01 ACDA-12 EUR-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAD-00
INRE-00 /076 W
-----013713 301550Z /72

O 301435 MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3366

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6854

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, PGOV, IS, US
SUBJECT: ISRAELI ARMS REQUESTS

REF: SMITH/BLACKWILL TELECON MAY 30, 1978

1. PER REQUEST FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE BY YOEL
MARCUS WHICH APPEARED IN MAY 28 HA'ARETZ.

2. QUOTE: THE U.S. IS HOLDING UP APPROVALS FOR ISRAELI ARMS
REQUESTS UNTIL ISRAEL CARRIES OUT A REASSESSMENT OF THE
CONCEPT BEHIND ITS REQUESTS AND ADAPTS IT TO AN ERA OF
CALM AND OF REGIONAL SETTLEMENTS, ACCORDING TO INFORMED
SOURCES. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO HINTED TO ISRAEL THAT
THERE WILL BE NO POINT TO ANY VISIT TO THE U.S. BY DEFENSE
MINISTER WEIZMAN, NOR HAS THE U.S. SHOWN READINESS TO SET
UP A JOINT TEAM WITH ISRAEL IN ORDER TO LOOK INTO THE
DISPUTE SURROUNDING ISRAEL'S "MATMON C" ARMS PROCUREMENT
PLAN. VARIOUS SIGNS INDICATE THAT THESE DELAYS ARE PART OF
A REASSESSMENT BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE ADMINISTRATION AS
REGARDS ITS MIDEAST ARMS-SELLING POLICY. THIS REASSESSMENT
TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE SALE OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS TO EGYPT
SO AS TO AFFORD THE EGYPTIAN ARMY "LOGISTIC CAPACITY TO
DEFEND ITSELF EFFECTIVELY AGAINST LIBYA." EGYPT'S NEEDS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06854 301545Z

WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING NEXT MONTH'S WASHINGTON VISIT BY
EGYPTIAN WAR MINISTER GAMASY, THOUGH IT'S THOUGHT THERE
WILL BE NO FINALIZATIONS DURING THAT VISIT, IT'S KNOWN THAT
THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE PENTAGON ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED
IN DETERMINING THE EXTENT OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO EGYPT IN THE
COMING YEAR. AMERICAN SOURCES STRESSED THAT EGYPT, TOO,

WOULD BE EQUIPPED IN LINE WITH THE POLITICAL PROCESS, AND IT IS NOT TO BE EXPECTED THAT EGYPT WILL BE FLOODED WITH ARMS IF IT IS BENT ON AGGRESSION. AT ALL EVENTS, SAY AMERICAN CIRCLES, THE SALE OF THE PLANES TO EGYPT IS TO BE VIEWED AS A SYMBOLIC GESTURE AND NOT AS FULFILLMENT OF EGYPT'S MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, WHICH ARE CONSIDERABLE IN THE WAKE OF EGYPT'S SEVERANCE FROM THE U.S.S.R. ON THE PLANE OF DEFENSE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, A CLOUDY SITUATION HAS EXISTED SINCE THE WEIZMAN VISIT TO WASHINGTON, WITH EACH SIDE BELIEVING THAT THE BALL IS IN THE OTHER'S COURT. IT IS LEARNED THAT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN TOLD WEIZMAN THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD NOT AGREE TO THE "MATMON C" PLAN, MAINLY BECAUSE IT IS BASED SOLELY ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE MIDEAST IS HEADED FOR WAR. ISRAEL IS TOTALLY IGNORING THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WILL BE POLITICAL SETTLEMENTS. WEIZMAN REPLIED THAT IT ALL DEPENDED ON WHAT SORT OF PEACE WOULD BE ATTAINED, AND THAT ISRAEL COULD NOT ALREADY NOW BEHAVE AS THOUGH THE MILITARY THREATS TO IT HAD PASSED. ACCORDING TO AMERICAN SOURCES, ISRAEL IS TO SUBMIT REQUESTS BASED ON THE NEW CONCEPT BEFORE SPECIFICS ARE DISCUSSED. THE IMPRESSION AMONG ISRAELI FACTORS WAS THAT THE DISCUSSIONS ON A ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT WOULD BE PARALLEL TO APPROVALS FOR ARMS FOR THE LONG TERM, AND NOT COME IN THEIR PLACE, WHEREAS THE AMERICANS' IMPRESSION WAS THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE TO CINSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF A DIFFERENT MILITARY SITUATION IN THE REGION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 06854 301545Z

ISRAELI SOURCES SAID THAT WEIZMAN AND BROWN PARTED BELIEVING THAT THEY WOULD MEET WITHIN ONE DAY FOR A FINALIZING TALK, BUT WEIZMAN HAD TO LEAVE SUDDENLY BECAUSE OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE BUS ON THE COASTAL ROAD. THESE SOURCES SAY THAT IN FACT ISRAEL HAS STILL RECEIVED NO REPLY TO ITS VARIOUS ARMS REQUESTS, EXCEPT FOR APPROVALS (TOTALLING 200 MILLION DOLLARS) FOR PURCHASING HELICOPTERS AND "FLIR" NIGHT-VISION SYSTEMS. IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT ISRAEL WILL ASK THE U.S. FOR CLEAR REPLIES TO OUTSTANDING ARMS REQUESTS. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL LIKELY PREFER TO VIEW ARMS SALES AS PART OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERING THE NEED TO INSERT BALANCE INTO ARMS SALES. THE DEFEAT OF THE JEWISH LOBBY OVER THE AIRCRAFT PACKAGE DEAL HAS DIMINISHED THE ADMINISTRATION'S FEAR OF JEWISH POWER, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL MORE THAN LIKELY BE OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN FUTURE ADMINISTRATION MOVES CONCERNING ARMS SALES. END QUOTE.

LEWIS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY SALES, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV06854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780226-0060
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805108/aaaafjmc.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: e3b9a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2534468
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970819
Subject: ISRAELI ARMS REQUESTS
TAGS: MASS, PGOV, IS, US, MILI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e3b9a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014